

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STRASB 00050 161100Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

OMB-01 /081 W

----- 028518

R 160915Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0866

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 50

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV. FR.

SUBJECT: CANTONAL ELECTIONS IN STRASBOURG DISTRICT

SUMMARY: STRIKING GAINS WERE REGISTERED BY SOCIALISTS IN CANTONAL ELECTIONS IN STRASBOURG DISTRICT. BIG LOSER WAS UDR, BUT CENTER PARTIES ALSO GENERALLY DECLINED. IN BELFORT CONTROL OF CONSEIL GENERAL PASSED FROM MAJORITY TO THE SOCIALISTS. IN REMAINDER OF DISTRICT MAJORITY PARTIES MAINTAINED THEIR CONTROL BUT WITH REDUCED NUMBERS. ONE SURPRISE OF ELECTION WAS SWING OF UDR VOTERS INTO SOCIALIST CAMP GIVING ELECTION TO TWO SOCIALIST IN THE HAUT-RHIN DEPARTMENT INSTEAD OF TO DOMINANT REFORM PARTY. END SUMMARY.

DECLINE OF THE UDR AND GAIN OF THE SOCIALISTS IS CLEARLY SEEN IN RESULTS OF CANTONAL ELECTIONS IN STRASBOURG CONSULAR DISTRICT.

MOST STRIKING CHANGE IS IN TERRITORY OF BELFORT, WHERE SOCIALISTS LED BY YOUNG SOCIALIST DEPUTY FORNI HELD ON TO ONE SEAT AND CAPTURED THREE OTHERS ASSURING PARTY OF ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN NEW CONSEIL-GENERAL, WHICH IT LOST THREE YEARS AGO.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STRASB 00050 161100Z

ELSEWHERE IN DISTRICT THE MAJORITY MAINTAINED ITS CONTROL OF CONSEILS-GENERAUX, BUT SOCIALISTS NEVERTHELESS MADE STRONG GAINS.

IN THE HAUT-RHIN THE SOCIALISTS PICKED UP TWO SEATS BOTH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE REFORM CANDIDATES WHO WERE DEFEATED LARGELY BY SWING OF UDR VOTERS INTO SOCIALIST CAMP. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN NORTH COLMAR DISTRICT WHERE VETERAN REFORM DEPUTY HAUSHERR WAS DEFEATED BY SWITCH OF UDR VOTERS TO SOCIALISTS. UDR WENT FROM 8 TO 5 SEATS IN HAUT-RHIN, MARKING INCREASING DECLINE OF PARTY IN THIS DEPARTMENT. 30 MEMBER COUNCIL GENERAL NEVERTHELESS STILL DOMINATED BY MAJORITY OF WHICH REFORM PARTY LARGEST ELEMENT WITH 11 MEMBERS.

IN BAS-RHIN, THE UDR WAS AGAIN THE LOSER, DROPPING 3 SEATS INCLUDING ONE TO A SOCIALIST. UDR DEPUTY RENE RADIUS LOST A THREE CORNERED RACE IN STRASBOURG TO A RELATIVE UNKNOWN, MARC BRUNSCHWEILER, WHO IS YOUNGEST MEMBER IN THE NEW CONSEIL-GENERAL AND FIRST SOCIALIST TO BE ELECTED TO CONSEIL-GENERAL OF THE BAS-RHIN IN 25 YEARS. CDP ALSO LOST 2 SEATS, WHILE REFORM PARTY OF DEPUTIES CARO AND ZELLER SHOWED ITS STRENGTH PICKING UP 4 SEATS. IN SPITE OF ITS LOSSES, UDR CONTINUES TO HOLD ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN NEW CONSEIL-REGIONAL WITH 26 OF 43 SEATS.

SOCIALISTS SHOWED STRENGTH BOTH IN MOSELLE(METZ) WHERE THEY DEFEATED THE OUTGOING MAJORITY CANDIDATES IN TWO CANTONS AND WON IN ANOTHER WHERE FORMER MEMBER WAS NOT RUNNING.

IN MEURTHE-ET-MOSELLE(NANCY) THE SOCIALISTS GAINED 3 SEATS, THE COMMUNISTS 2 AND THE LEFT RADICAL ONE FOR A TOTAL OF 6 SEATS. THE MAJORITY NOW HOLDS 20 SEATS IN THE NEW CONSEIL-GENERAL AND THE LEFT 17 AS COMPARED TO 26 AND 11 IN FORMER ASSEMBLY. EVEN WHEN LOSING, SOCIALISTS OFTEN SHOWED INCREASED STRENGTH. THIS COULD BE SEEN IN CERTAIN RURAL CANTONS OF ALSACE, LONG IN HANDS OF CONSERVATIVES WHERE SOCIALISTS GREATLY IMPROVED THEIR PERCENTAGE OF VOTES, OR IN FORBACH IN THE MOSELLE, WHERE SOCIALISTS WHILE LOSING TO UDR CANDIDATE NEVERTHELESS TOOK SOLID SECOND PLACE FAR AHEAD REFORM DEPUTY FRISCH. IN THE VOSGES (EPINAL) PRESIDENT OF THE CONSEIL-GENERAL JEAN VILMAIN, AND UDR DEPUTY HOFFER WERE DEFEATED, WHILE IN THE DOUBS (BESANCON) UDR DEPUTY WEINMAN LOST UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STRASB 00050 161100Z

HIS SEAT.

THUS IN THIS TRADITIONALLY CENTRIST AND GAULLIST PART OF FRANCE, THE SOCIALISTS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, ABLE TO ATTRACT NOT ONLY VOTES ON THE LEFT BUT THOSE OF GAULLISTS AND POSSIBLY OTHER GROUPS DISSATISFIED WITH MODERATE CENTER OF ROAD APPROACH AND SEARCHING FOR NEW AND LESS TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP.ROMINE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIALISM, COUNTY GOVERNMENT, ELECTIONS, PARTY PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTH, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STRASB00050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760098-0961
From: STRASBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760354/aaaabvto.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANTONAL ELECTIONS IN STRASBOURG DISTRICT SUMMARY: STRIKING GAINS WERE REGISTERED BY SOCIALISTS IN
TAGS: PGOV, FR, UDR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006